

Marshfield and Plainfield Energy and Climate Change committee
Monthly meeting minutes, January 6th, 2019, 7:00pm
Upstairs library area

Committee members in attendance: Nick Seifert, Anne Miller, Amanda Carlson, Becky Wigg, Wes Cate

Members of the public in attendance: Allen Banbury, Diana Batzel, Rich Phillips

- Select a facilitator
 - Amanda volunteered.
- Public comment
 - None.
- Announcements
 - Amanda announced there is a climate strike at the state house, Extinction Rebellion.
- Approval of previous minutes
 - Nick motioned to approve the December 2nd, meeting minutes. Seconded and approved
- Business
 - Agriculture and climate change series
 - Anne has organized most of a series, which is practically oriented, targeted on climate change and growing food. She has six sessions planned, but only four scheduled so far.
 - The first is on January 29th, and will be Joseph Görres from UVM. He is going to give background and overview of climate change.
 - On February 8th (Saturday) Karen Ganey will be talking about permaculture design concepts and practices.
 - February 29th Anne and another speaker will talk about increasing the adaptability of our plant varieties.
 - March 11th, Cat Buxton will be giving a talk on building and maintaining healthy soils.
 - TBD date on how climate change could affect the nutritional quality of foods.
 - TBD date on climate change and food security.
 - Energy Committee blurb for town report
 - Amanda volunteered to work on this. She needs some information and examples.
 - Nick offered to send her what he has done last year.
 - Marshfield dam discussion (if needed)
 - Michael attended a hearing related to the dam case in early December. Plainfield had called two witnesses to cross examine. Sasha from Plainfield did the cross examination. The first person from GMP was Jason Lisai, which did not go very well. The next people were engineers, one related to dam safety and one related to water quality.
 - A major part of the conversation with the dam safety engineer was that she was not aware of the highest lake level which had occurred in 2011.
 - Some interesting examination also happened around the use of a temporary coffer dam to block the service spillway, to the extent that it may take multiple days to remove the temporary dam.

- The court made a mistake with not filing the transcript from this hearing, which Michael discovered, and was able to get corrected. This also meant that the hearing officer extended the period to allow additional rebuttal.
- Michael expects that a ruling would be made by the April timeframe at the latest.
- Model communities / RAMP program update
 - Nick gave an update on the RAMP energy task force. Weatherization is the primary focus. There is also some money available for Marshfield to use; Nick and Michelle will be meeting with the Selectboard on either the 7th or 21st to discuss how this can be used, and what they want to use it for.
 - Rich mentioned that he is going to pursue some information for solar at Twinfield, and plans to put together some information on this.
 - Anne provided an update on the RAMP transportation efforts. They have a flyer/poster out, which outlines non car and bus transportation options, including the new Barre bus.
- VECAN update and notes
 - Amanda gave an update on VECAN. Bob, Ed, Allen, Amanda and Steve Farnham (?) attended and carpooled.
 - Amanda found TCI interesting ([link here](#)). This is a way of (essentially) taxing the highest carbon emitters in the transportation sector. The idea is that these resources are then reinvested in carbon reduction efforts. The idea is similar to RGGI.
 - Amanda also mentioned the Vermont Community Energy Dashboard, which has a lot of information
 - Michael Billingsly attended a breakout session related to low income people and how they can achieve weatherization and other low-carbon goals.
 - Michael also attended a breakout session related to soil health. His main takeaway was that the presenters, who were from Thetford, seem to have a good approach for getting people to meetings.
 - Michael also talked to someone from GMP about energy storage. Michael brought up the perspective from a hazard management angle, and the GMP rep thought this could be a good idea.
- Plainfield update
- Draft agenda for next meeting
 - Select a facilitator
 - Public comment
 - Announcements
 - Approval of previous minutes
 - Business
 - Agriculture and climate change series updates
 - Marshfield dam discussion (if needed)
 - Model communities / RAMP program update
 - Town meeting update
 - Plainfield update
 - Draft agenda for next meeting